

Chairperson- Mr. Himmelberger and members of the committee/ committee member ????

For the record, I am here in support of senate bill 394

I am Robert Ross-R O S S - and I am from Wolf Point, MT. My wife and I moved to Montana from Washington State in 2007. Washington State is a mail ballot election state. I personally like the mail ballot election as I was a traveling businessman and it gave me the opportunity to study the pamphlet and vote before I had to leave town.

I have worked as an election judge for the clerk and recorder's office in Roosevelt County for the 2008 primary and general election.

I AM HERE IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL FOR ALL THE REASONS YOU'VE ALREADY HEARD AND FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON(S) ALSO -

My observations are that our county has:

A lot of people do not go to the polling places to vote.

While being an election judge, the precinct that I was working was slow and most of them had already voted absentee.

Difficuly in obtaining/retaining judges

I feel that a lot of people are intimidated by the polling place.

The positive aspects of a mail ballot election would be that

For a traveling or business person, it would be a convenience to have a Mail ballot election. It would afford people the option of voting at home or voting their ballot at the courthouse polling place.

Another convenience would be to drop your ballot in the mail or deliver it personally to the courthouse polling place or other designated drop off sites.

I strongly support the option of conducting mail ballot elections.

If there are follow up questions from the chairperson/committee - address them as chairman Himmelberger and committee member - (name)